

**INDIANA ARTS COMMISSION
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TELECONFERENCE**

November 30, 2011

IAC Office, 100 N. Senate Avenue, Room N505
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Jon Ford, Chair

Minutes

Members via teleconference: Karen Ellerbrook, Jon Ford, Judy Hess, Pam Hicks, Jeff Kirk, Trevor Yager

Members absent: none

IAC staff present: Michelle Anderson, Dennis Hardin, Lewis Ricci

1. **Approval of Agenda and September Minutes.** IAC Chair Jon Ford convened the meeting at 10:04 a.m. and asked everyone to introduce themselves. Due to lack of quorum present, no action was taken. Approval of the September 15, 2011 minutes was deferred until a special meeting of the Executive Committee prior to the next meeting of the full Commission on December 9. It was noted that the agenda for today's meeting carried an incorrect date of December 30.

2. **Financial.** IAC Deputy Director Michelle Anderson presented a handout (attached) showing the agency's FY 2012 budget, current through November 4, 2011. Mr. Ford asked if previously-discussed problems with the State Budget Agency (SBA) have shown any improvement. Ms. Anderson replied that SBA is now visiting the IAC office on a weekly basis to work out any problems, and that communication is better as a result. IAC Executive Director Lewis Ricci explained about an accounting error by SBA which occurred in FY 2011, when the same \$8,000.00 was encumbered twice but the money withheld in error was never restored. SBA now wants IAC to provide specific justification for re-instatement of the money into the FY 2013 budget. Mr. Ricci plans to apply the funds to capacity-building programs, as a follow-up to the "Building Better Communities" symposium which was held in October. Mr. Ricci requested that a designated Commissioner join with him to make the presentation to SBA.

3. **Commission Issues.** Mr. Ricci explained to the Committee that lack of attendance at IAC standing committee meetings is impairing the agency's ability to conduct normal business, since many action items have to be deferred because of lack of quorum, and then an extra meeting of a committee is often required to obtain a vote. For FY 2012, a plan was created to concentrate action items into two meeting of each committee per year, with the other two scheduled meetings being conference calls. However this plan has not resulted in better attendance by Commissioners. Commissioner Judy Hess and Commissioner Karen Ellerbrook both spoke of the difficulty in traveling from the far reaches of the state, especially for meetings which take place during morning hours.

Mr. Ford suggested that the matter could be brought before the full Commission for discussion at the next meeting on December 9. Mr. Ricci then presented a handout (attached) showing a matrix for monitoring progress of the IAC Strategic Plan. He suggested that an individual Commissioner could be designated for overseeing each of the nine areas shown. He will present the document to the full Commission at its December 9 meeting. Mr. Ricci then reminded the Committee that IAC had decided to review its Cultural Districts program sometime after the Building Better Communities colloquium, which was held in October. IAC Commissioner Trevor Yager, chair of the Program Evaluation Committee, will bring the matter before the PEC at its next meeting. Mr. Ricci then discussed the on-going review of the Arts in Education grant program. Under present guidelines, AIE grants are given only to schools; however, many schools which might otherwise apply for AIE grants do not for lack of administrative personnel and time. As a result, there are leftover funds in the AIE grant pool, which could be put to better use. Some discussion has focused on opening up the application to individual artists who would propose special programs to be taken to schools, rather than the schools receiving the money directly. Schools would still be eligible as well as other organizations. Any changes that are approved would take effect for calendar year 2013. Commissioners Ellerbrook and Hess were members of an ad-hoc committee which discussed possible options. Mr. Ricci asked the Committee for a consensus to recommend withdrawal of \$37,500.00 in interest from the Cultural Trust Fund, which will be used to fund Arts in Education grants in 2012. The Committee agreed and will vote to approve such a recommendation when it meets again prior to the December 9 meeting of the full Commission. Mr. Ricci reported that there has been no action from the Governor's office to fill several vacancies on the Commission, but that he has received assurance that all of the vacancies will be filled before the current administration leaves office in January 2013.

4. Education Grant Allocations for 2012. Mr. Ricci presented a handout (attached) showing the panel scores for Arts in Education grants; the panel met on November 17 to score applications from 11 schools. Using the cut-off score of 80 points, nine applications received favorable reviews. Mr. Ricci asked the Committee for a consensus to recommend approval of these nine grants. The Committee agreed and will formally vote to recommend approval when it meets again prior to the meeting of the full Commission on December 9.

5. Partnership Issues. Mr. Ricci presented a handout (attached) showing some of the discussion points from the October 27 Regional Partner Retreat held at the Monon Center in Carmel. The Committee on the Future identified three priorities in IAC-RAP relations which will be addressed: 1) review of the funding formula; 2) better communication and 3) mentoring of new Partners. Commissioner Ellerbrook, who attended the retreat, spoke of "renewed hope" in building strong relationships with the Regional Arts Partners. Mr. Ricci then presented a handout (attached) showing the proposed re-districting of the Regions, eliminating what previously was Region 11 and assigning those counties to other Regions. The Committee briefly discussed other possible non-numerical designations for the Regions, including naming each Region after its Partner organization. The full Commission will consider the matter at its next

meeting. Mr. Ricci then reviewed the October 28 Expanded Partnership Think Tank, which was well attended by organizations state-wide that have interests in the arts. Mr. Ricci then reported that, as a result of the recent Foundation and Business Roundtable, he has had individual discussions with grant officers from some of the participating foundations. IAC has submitted a letter of intent to apply for a national “ArtPlace” grant which would partner IAC with Indiana Artisan and the three designated Cultural Districts to create sales points for Artisan goods in each of the Cultural Districts.

6. **Emeritus Gathering.** In conjunction with the December 9 meeting of the full Commission, IAC will host the first-ever reunion of former Commissioners, being called the Emeritus Gathering. Commissioner Trevor Yager will facilitate a planning session involving all of the former and current Commissioners with an eye toward re-engaging IAC’s former leaders in current plans and activities.

7. **Governor’s Election Update.** IAC Chair Jon Ford and Executive Director Lewis Ricci have met once with each of the major declared candidates for Governor in the 2012 election, and both meetings went very well. Mr. Ford hopes to be able to meet with each candidate again.

8. **Old Business/New Business.** Commissioner Ellerbrook requested that meeting materials be sent to Commissioners with more time to be read and studied.

9. **Adjourn.** Mr. Ford thanked everyone for their participation and closed the meeting at 11:25 a.m.